



Date: July 15, 2005
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: *City Report For Week Ending July 15, 2005*

This *City Report* highlights various activities for the week ending July 15, 2005. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

Budget Summit III – Community Voices and Budget Choices

On July 9, approximately 300 residents and employees joined the Mayor and members of the City Council at the third-annual Budget Summit held at The Grand. Attendees received updates on the status of the City's Financial Strategic Plan, including progress made to date in reducing the General Fund's structural deficit; the City's current financial condition and outlook; the ongoing work of the City Council's Budget Oversight Committee; and a preview of the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. Participants also had the opportunity to meet directly with City Department Directors to ask questions about departmental budgets and operations.

The City will continue this dialogue with the community and employees throughout the Fiscal Year 2006 budget process. Budget workshops and hearings, in addition to monthly Budget Oversight Committee meetings, will be held to provide opportunities for additional comment on the City's budget before its adoption in September. A listing of these public meetings is available at www.longbeach.gov.

The Budget Summit will be aired on LBTv Channel 8 throughout July on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, Saturdays at 5:00 pm and Sundays at 11:00 am. For those without access to Charter Communications, LBTv Channel 8 is live on www.longbeach.gov, select Council, Video.

Public Works, Graffiti Abatement

During the first nine months of Fiscal Year 05, graffiti has been removed from 28,818 sites. This is 2,964 more sites than in FY 04 (25,854), and 12,841 more sites than in FY 03 (15,977) during the same time period. From July 2004 through June 2005, the average number of sites abated was 3,151 per month, while the previous 12-month period averaged 2,566 per month.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Sea Festival: Parks, Recreation and Marine

The Mayor's Cup match-racing regatta series for internationally ranked female skippers and crews in identical Catalina 37 sailboats began on July 14 and will culminate on **Saturday, July 16**. All vessels depart at approximately 11 am at Belmont Pier. Residents and visitors are invited to attend this free event.

An estimate crowd of 2,000 watched the Catalina Ski Race, a 62-mile water-ski race from Belmont Pier to Catalina and back, on July 9.

More than 150 people enjoyed the Sea Festival Outrigger Regatta at Marine Stadium on July 9.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Sea Festival: Parks, Recreation and Marine

Come and Cheer! A departure ceremony for the Transpacific Yacht Race, a 2,225 nautical miles yacht race from California to Hawaii, will be held at Rainbow Harbor on **Sunday, July 17** at 9:30 am. Each boat will be saluted with a traditional "cannon blast," as it sails past Pine Avenue Pier and traditional Hawaiian Outrigger Canoes will accompany the boats. The famed Transpac Winner, Windward Passage, will accompany the fleet from Rainbow Harbor to Point Fermin, the starting point of the race. Residents and visitors are invited to attend this free event. For a daily log about boats at sea during the race visit: www.transpacificyc.org

Library Services

With the release of the new *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, at midnight tonight, the Long Beach Public Library has made special arrangements to provide print and audiobook copies to patrons already on the Library's waiting list at 10:00 am on **Saturday, July 16**. To help meet the demand generated by the 216 patrons on the waiting list, the Library was able to purchase 86 books and 24 CD/tape editions. The Library is delighted to provide the newest Harry Potter adventure to our patrons on the day of its release!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Police and Fire

The Armada Baseball team will host Public Safety Night at Blair Field on **Saturday, July 16**. Prior to the Armada Baseball game, the Long Beach Police and Fire Departments will compete in a softball game. Police Officer Billy Foster will sing the National Anthem and there will be activities for the kids. The fierce, but friendly, competition is already shaping up. Enjoy a night with your family and friends at the ballpark, and support your Police and Fire Departments. Tickets can be purchased at www.longbeacharmada.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Police

Sign up now! A 15-week Community Police Academy is scheduled to begin on August 31. The Academy's goal is to ensure the future of our community by building a strong relationship between the citizens and the Police Department. Participants will gain insight and understanding of the criminal justice system, and the Long Beach Police Department. Participants must live or work in Long Beach, and be a minimum of 21 years of age or currently enrolled in Long Beach City College. Two college units will be earned upon graduation. The class meets every Wednesday night from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Contact Sergeant Gail Dennison at 570.5910 or visit the Announcement section at www.longbeach.gov/police for more information.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,558 emergency calls for service: 115 calls for fires, of which 15 involved structures; and 669 emergency medical calls, of which 459 required paramedics.

Police

Youth Services Detectives, using volunteer Explorers as decoys, conducted an undercover tobacco sting program in the North Division. Of the 47 businesses that were contacted, three sold tobacco to minors and were issued citations.

Public Works, Airport Bureau

The Security Access Control System (SACS) upgrade project to enhance security features throughout the Airport is underway with an estimated completion date of September 2005.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

More than 350 summer camp attendees participated in games, tournaments, and field trips to Bolsa Chica State Beach, the Redondo Pier in Huntington Beach, Wild Rivers Water Park, the movies, and Shoreline Village.

On July 11 and 12, Drake and Ramona Parks, in cooperation with the Southern California Tennis Association, launched six-week tennis programs with over 45 youth learning the fundamentals of tennis.

On July 15, the Whaley Park Music and Arts Day Camp had a music, vocal, and dance presentation with 45 performers and an audience of over 75 friends and family.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

On July 14, Rancho Los Cerritos offered its second *Rancho Afternoons* program for children entering 1st through 5th grade in the fall. Sixty children explored the Rancho's historic gardens and engaged in garden-related crafts and games. Program supplies were underwritten by a grant from the Public Corporation for the Arts to the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation.

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NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The tennis courts at Silverado Park are being re-surfaced.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The following ADA improvements have been completed at Bixby Knolls Park: the interior painting is complete; tile, fixtures, and partitions have been installed in the restrooms; and rubber surfacing has been installed under the play equipment.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Work continues on the Cesar E. Chavez Park Amphitheater and the Downtown Bike Path link to the LARIO Trail along the Los Angeles River.

Public Works, Project Management

The Cesar Chavez Amphitheater project is approximately 85% complete and the grand opening is tentatively scheduled for September 2005.

The projected construction start date for ADA improvements at the Ruth Bach Branch Library is September 2005.

Electrical repair and modification to the Civic Center Main Library Auditorium should begin in September 2005.

The 55th Way-Davenport Park project is under construction and approximately 10% complete. Completion of project is on schedule for January 2006.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The Neighborhood Services Bureau is currently promoting its \$2,000 facade rebate program to business and property owners on the 7th Street Corridor in efforts to improve the appearance of the corridor. A critical component of this effort is the work of the Code Enforcement Division staff who are working with corridor businesses to insure that they are in compliance with code enforcement standards. To date, 211 cases have been opened and 89 have already been resolved. Additionally, staff has issued 43 Citation Warning Letters notifying business owners that they have 30 days to resolve the problem or a citation fining them for the infraction will be issued.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Library Services

Over 85 people came to the Main Library on July 9 to hear Kelly Lange, former news anchor and current mystery author. The program was presented by the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library as part of the Blanche Collins Forum.

The Reggaeton Revolucion 2005 Festival, with an estimated attendance of 8,000, was held at the Queen Mary Events Park on July 10.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Staff completed a total of 2,525 service calls. This total included 984 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 635 Turn Offs. During this period, 769 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 79 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 395 emergency phone calls that resulted in 58 emergency orders being sent out.

Installation of gas lines at Wardlow Road between Maine and Magnolia Avenue is ongoing.

GRM: KP: arc

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
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City Manager Department Heads
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